PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

09-10

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

Statement from the Minister

Saskatchewan is blessed with a diverse, healthy, and beautiful environment. Our government is committed to protecting this legacy by ensuring that as we work to create economic activity and growth, we also significantly reduce our environmental footprint. That is part of our Government's plan for Securing the Future.

The Ministry of Environment's Plan for 2009-10 identifies how my Ministry aligns with the Government's vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of iife for all.

The 2009-10 Budget provides resources to help Saskatchewan people, businesses, and communities Go Green, enables a number of important environmental initiatives and delivers on our promises. I will report on this Plan and my Mandate Letter commitments in the Ministry's annual report.

The Honourable Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Environment's mission is to protect the environment and promote sustainable use of natural resources to enhance economic and social benefits.

Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support Government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Deliver effective results-based environmental regulation	• Initiate legislative review of *The Environmental Assessment Act*, *The Forest Resources Management Act*, and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*. • Continue consultations with targeted stakeholder groups such as business organizations, academics, environmental non-government organizations, municipal and industry representatives on legislative amendments. • Implement a new organizational structure in support of the new environmental management model. • Implement information technology (IT) initiatives to support the new environmental management model including streamlined external and internal access to information.
Manage sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits	• Lead land use planning to inform development and resource allocation decisions that are supported by diverse stakeholders and user groups. • Support Aboriginal participation in natural resource development. • Develop and implement a risk based, provincial Compliance Plan that focuses compliance assurance and monitoring on areas of highest priority within the Ministry mandate. • Review, prepare and implement a new, modernized *Provincial Lands Act* that will enable effective management of Crown resource lands in support of ecological, social and economic goals. • Continue management of Chronic Wasting Disease. • Facilitate land acquisition by Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations. • Facilitate orderly and sustainable industry growth in the oil/gas/mineral exploration sectors by conducting environmental reviews and approving surface access to mineral and petroleum projects where appropriate. • Support forest industry revitalization by: ~ utilizing new forest inventories to support reallocation of forest resources; ~ collaborating with Energy and Resources to explore reconfiguring Forest Management Agreements and boundaries to support a redeveloped forest industry; ~ analyzing forest inventories for biomass availability in support of the biofuel industry; ~ protecting the commercial forest from insects and diseases; and, ~ ensuring renewal of harvested areas within the provincial forests. • Support natural resource based tourism by: ~ amending regulations to support implementation of Sunday hunting; ~ collaborating with the provincial outfitting industry to implement a government-supported system for business certification or accreditation of Saskatchewan outfitters; ~ Implementing an automated hunting and fishing license system.

Government Goal – Security

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Prevent and reduce risks to the health of people and the environment	• Continue with phase 2 of the aerial fleet renewal plan and construction of remaining fire observation towers and other infrastructure projects. • Work with local governments, northern residents, and stakeholders and provide education and support to enable them to understand, and take responsibility to protect themselves from the risks of wildfires. • Regulate air pollutants in Saskatchewan. • Implement the province's airshed management program and manage a regional air quality monitoring network in southeast Saskatchewan. • Ensure safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater by: ~ aiding small communities to ensure safe drinking water; ~ working to ensure water and wastewater infrastructure capacity and capability to sustain growth in Saskatchewan; ~ maintaining a high level of drinking water quality standards compliance as a means to ensure safe drinking water. • Expand solid waste management and recycling programs by: ~ completing a provincial strategy for municipal solid waste management.
Maintain healthy ecosystems that support native biological diversity	• Protect and conserve lands representative of the province's ecosystems by: ~ continuing to identify, protect, and manage sites within the provincial Representative Areas Network; ~ renewing the Prairie Conservation Action Plan with its strong partnership amongst government agencies, landowners, and ranchers for conservation of the province's native prairie. • Implement a provincial fisheries management plan to ensure sustainable resources over the next decade.
Maintain healthy air, land, water and ecosystems	• Manage, assess, and report on the state of the environment: ~ fulfill the State of the Environment reporting requirement in 2009 through the State of the Provincial Forests Report. • Develop an acid deposition management framework to manage the impacts of acid deposition. • Maintain and provide environmental information to support sustainable development and use of natural resources: ~ in support of results-based regulations, conduct analysis to address needs and gaps in Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) framework and establish a strategic IM plan data management standards; ~ provide effective on-line interface with industry and other resources users, streamlining submission and approval processes. • Conduct analysis to address needs and gaps in IM/IT framework to support integrated environmental monitoring. • Oversee clean-up of priority contaminated sites. • Secure and eliminate public safety hazards at non-uranium abandoned mine sites.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Lead the government's response to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change	• Implement policy and legislation to address climate change. • Develop provincial offsets through carbon sinks. • Implement a provincial adaptation blueprint to sustain economic growth and address potential impacts of climate change.
Support the delivery of the province's Go Green plan	• Administer the Go Green fund to promote the development and implementation of cost effective environmental technologies such as: ~ carbon capture and storage; ~ energy efficiency and conservation initiatives; ~ water conservation measures. • Collaborate with, and make Ministry resources available when requested by, Enterprise and Innovation for the biofuel file. • Collaborate with Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to work with municipalities and institutions to ensure new public buildings are constructed according to the Model National Energy Code. • Guide, in collaboration with Energy and Resources and Finance, Government's efforts to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green: ~ support the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for CO_2 Capture at the University of Regina; ~ collaborate on energy conservation initiatives: low-interest loans for Energy Star qualified furnaces and boilers, Provincial Sales Tax (PST) rebates for Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems purchases.

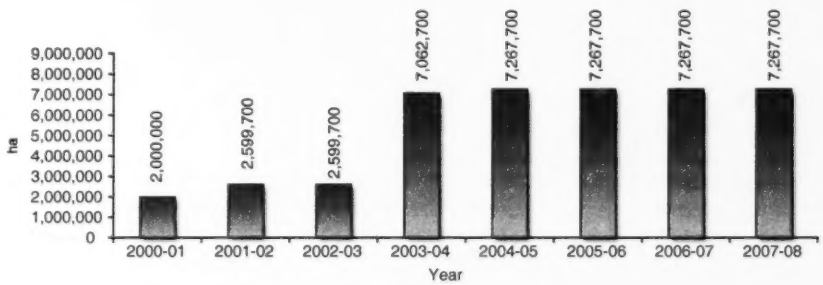
Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Enhance co-operation among western provinces in environmental and resource management	• Minimize duplication and maximize federal/provincial co-operation to ensure the environment is protected by continuing effective agreements with agencies and by entering into new agreements with The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada: ~ seek to maximize provincial regulation of nuclear activity under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* in Saskatchewan through an administrative agreement with CNSC; and, ~ renew discussions with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete and implement a Canada-Saskatchewan Fish Habitat Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify respective roles and responsibilities to: avoid duplication in management applications, streamline approval processes, and enhance sharing of information.
Work co-operatively with and increase involvement of First Nations and Métis people in environmental and resource management	• Work with Aboriginal peoples and other ministries to develop a protocol that will protect Aboriginal rights and interests and ensure the Ministry of Environment fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate with respect to forestry, mining, and other renewable resource land use activities. • Work in partnership with First Nations to evaluate environmental, land use, and resource policies that support economic growth and benefits for all Saskatchewan people.

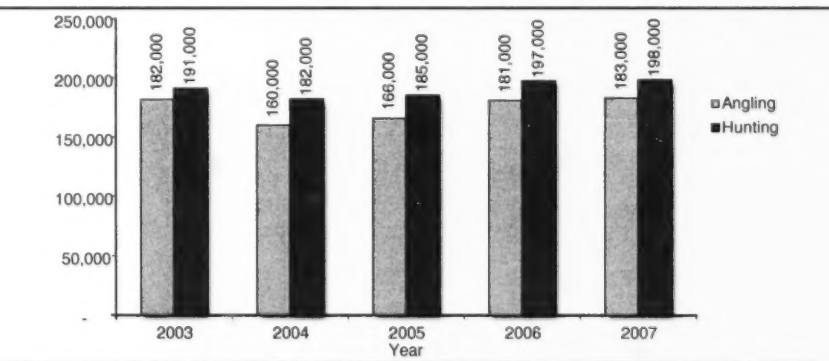
Performance Measures

The Ministry of Environment tracks and measures a number of indicators that further reflect the full mandate of the Ministry. The suite of measures included in this report highlights a few of these measures. For example, in 2009 the State of the Forests Report will provide extensive information on the situation in the provincial forests and ecosystems. The Ministry is also working towards developing additional measures to report on other aspects of the mandate including climate change and fire management.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Number of Hectares of Crown Land under Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUP)	

Significance of the Measure

Integrated land use planning is an ecosystem-based tool that links the environment, the community, and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources. The unification of the varied interests through the planning process requires time, commitment, a high-level of participation, and financial resources but results in more efficient, supported resource management decision-making over the long-term. As new land use plans are completed this number will increase.

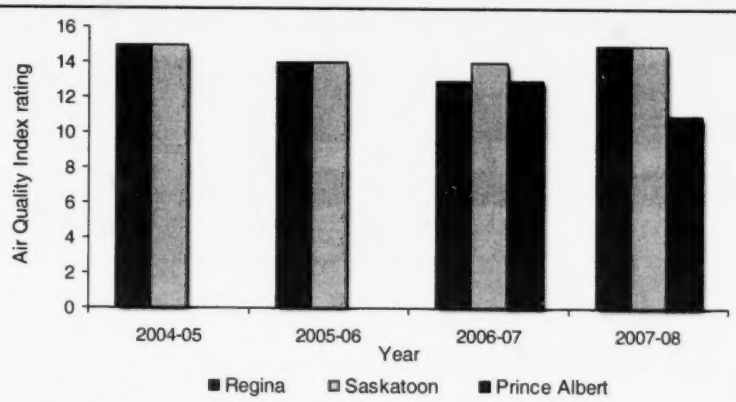
Number of Hunting and Angling Licences Sold	

Significance of the Measure

Hunting and angling are of social, cultural, and economic importance in the history of Saskatchewan. Licence sales are tracked annually and serve both as an indicator of short- and long-term interest in these activities and as an indication of the importance of hunting and fishing as significant contributors to the economic health of the province. Annually, hunting and angling generate approximately $100 and $200 million respectively in provincial expenditures. The Ministry will soon be moving to an automated hunting and angling licence sale system that will support home-based purchase and print of certain licences as well as enable 24-hour tracking of licence sales and revenue generation.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information

Air Quality Index



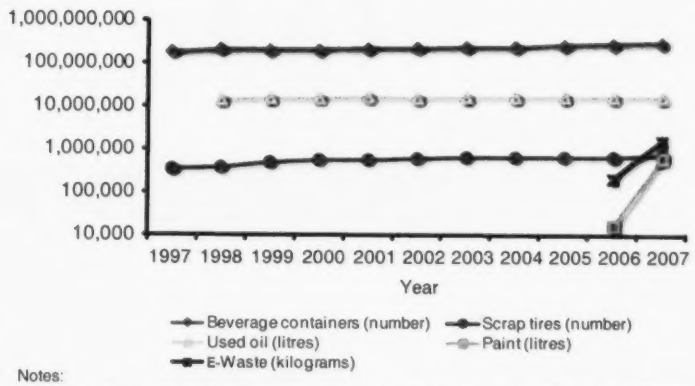
Index Rating

0 - 25	Good
26 - 50	Fair
51 - 100	Poor
+100	Very poor

Significance of the Measure

The air quality index is used to monitor long-term trends in air quality. The index is a composite of data about measurements of chemicals and particulates in the air. Maintaining urban air quality is an important part of meeting this objective. The Ministry of Environment has established monitoring stations in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. This measure is only an indicator of the impact of air quality on health as it measures air quality at a point source, not for the overall population.

Recycling Rates



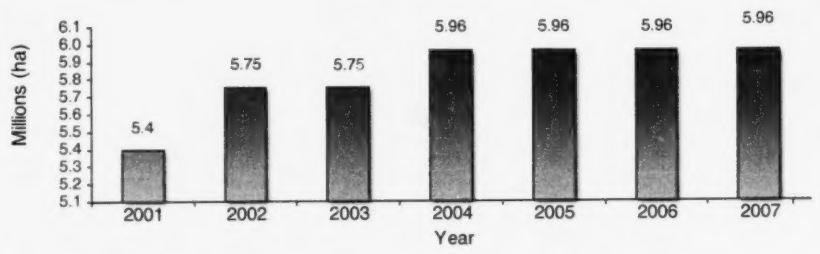
Notes:
- Beverage containers, paint and e-waste are based on a fiscal year. The fiscal year 2007-08 is represented by 2007. All other data is based on calendar year
- E-waste program began February 1, 2007.

Significance of the Measure

Recycling is an indicator of public commitment to waste minimization and indicates shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. Over the long-term, we will maintain our high-levels of recycling and increase the types of products recycled.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information

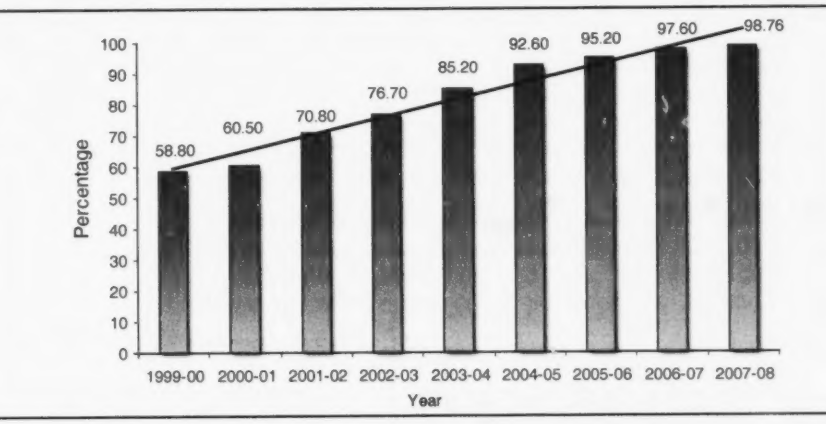
Number of Hectares in the Representative Areas Network (RAN)



Significance of the Measure

An adequate number and distribution of representative sites under the RAN ensures that terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are conserved to monitor the effectiveness of environmental management activities across the province. The measure of the number of hectares in the RAN is an indicator of the Province's commitment to supporting native biological diversity.

Drinking Water Quality Standards Compliance and Quality Satisfaction



December 2001	May 2003	March 2005	March 2006	May 2007	February 2008
72	87	86	87.3	82.6	86.6

Significance of the Measure

The drinking water quality standards compliance indicator is a measure of annual compliance with bacteriological and disinfection standards for municipal waterworks in Saskatchewan. This indicator looks at drinking water quality from a bacteriological perspective. Drinking water with bacterial contamination can quickly affect the health of consumers. If drinking water is not properly treated and disinfected at all times, outbreaks of waterborne disease may result.

The drinking water quality satisfaction indicator is based on omnibus polling conducted by the Government of Saskatchewan. The indicator shows the percentage of those polled that agreed or strongly agreed that they are confident in the safety of their own drinking water. Actions such as consumer education efforts, waterworks inspections, implementation of water quality standards, water workshops, and consumer notification help build confidence in the safety of drinking water.

Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

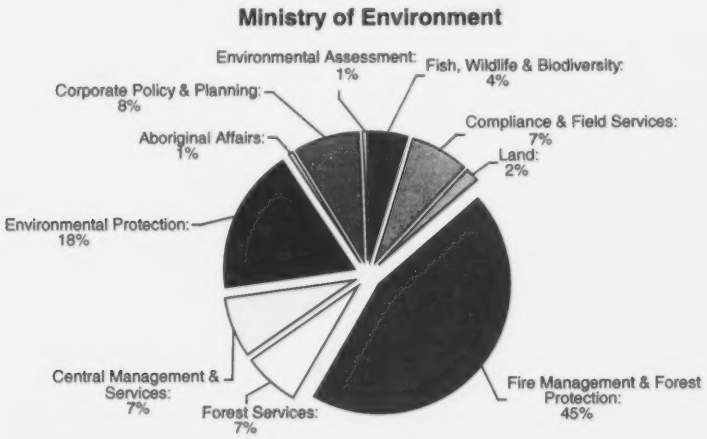
2009-10 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	17,267
Environmental Protection	41,032
Forest Services	15,524
Fire Management and Forest Protection	102,097
Land	3,975
Compliance and Field Services	16,565
Corporate Policy and Planning	20,939
Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity	10,442
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**227,841**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(33,677)
Capital Asset Amortization	6,216
Total Appropriation	**200,380**
FTE Staff Complement	1,040.3

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following are key announcements being made in the 2009-10 Budget:

- $15.3 million for Go Green funding to support projects that promote the development and implementation of cost-effective environmental technologies, such as carbon capture and storage; energy efficiency and conservation initiatives; and, water conservation initiatives.
- $6.2 million to support the Ministry's move to a results-based environmental management model.
- The capital focuses on the implementation of the results-based regulation; $28.3 million for phase 2 of the aerial fleet renewal plan; and, construction of the fire tower network.
- $300,000 to developand acid deposition management framework program.
- The beverage container collection and recycling program will receive additional funding in order to maintain current service levels for the beverage program.
- Program efficiencies of $954,000 and other reductions of $4.0 million for a total of approximately $5.0 million to offset new initiatives.



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.environment.gov.sk.ca for more information on the Ministry's programs and services, or call (306) 787-2484.